To Discuss with Robert Penn Warren

The nature of success, in American society; in literature.

The nature of the individual, in our society; in literature.

Who are our heroes, especially in real life? What is characteristic about our heroes in literature?

What does our literature tell us about American life today?

Why is it that so much of post WWII literature is about an individual set against a "maimed and sadistic society, a general spirit of despair, aimlessness, violence, amoral transaction?

What are your heroes like, in real life and in your writing?

Fads--what bell-bottoms, campus demonstrations, LSD, rock music, astrology, tell us about ourselves.

Why do you say men of power don't read great literature?

Your image of the American conviction of being on the Great Gravy train with a first-class ticket. Is that image shot now?

Role of technology in American society.

What do you think about ~~the~~ leisure in America. . . the role of the spectator who consumes but does not create.

What about television. The tv journalists you describe in the novel The Cave, that almost encourage the circus atmosphere of a young boy trapped ina cave.

Your books almost always relate to a specific historical event, sometimes a small and unknown event like a trial or a death. If you were to write a novel about America in 1974 what would it be about?

What is the rhetoric of America? And how deep does it go?